

## NAPANOCH PRISON, FINEST OF ITS KIND, FACES REAL CRISIS

Model Institution Up in Ulster County Butt of Streak of Economy.

BUT BUSINESS IS DULL

Trustees Plead for Year's Delay in Closing It, as Crime Wave Grows.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
NAPANOCH, N. Y., Feb. 24.—The best little barred window hotel that the State runs, the Eastern New York State Reformatory, otherwise known as Napanoch Prison, is apt to be closed by an economical Legislature. It cost \$85,000 to maintain this small prison de luxe, the Ritz-Carlton of jails, last year, and there were never as many as 200 pris-patrons in the place. At present there are just 195.

The State, always hard up and getting pinched and pinched, frowns at taking care of prisoners at about \$440 each a year, so a bill has been introduced by the Finance Committee of the State Assembly to cut off Napanoch's cash. The Legislature is planning to forget there is such a place, and that means that the warden and the prisoners may not be there next Christmas.

Would Be a Pity to Close It.

With its five buildings, gray-hued and beginning to take on the charming color nuances that time gives to stone and mortar, all set in a beautiful spot of meadows, with its own farm well tilled in the seasons, with sanitation and cleanliness and humanity watchwords of its officers, it seems a pity that Napanoch's doors may be shut for good and the cluster of buildings be given over to rats and the little farm to weeds and briars. The school, now run every day but Saturday and Sunday by Prof. John Brunson, with the aid of inmates, and which has taught many unfortunate and neglected youths their reading and writing and arithmetic and considerable more if they were there long enough and took real interest, will be given over to dust and cobwebs.

Principal Keeper Delaney, guide in the absence of Warden W. N. Thayer, suggested some of these ideas, since the man loves his work and believes that Napanoch is one of those prisons that make most inmates better instead of worse; but the suggestions were fairly apparent at all times. If jails must be closed for lack of business it might seem better to shut up the ugly ones and the badly conducted ones first, while keeping the nickel plated, marble tiled ones like Little Napanoch as long as courts have customers. Delaney is talking:

"The trouble is that no commitments are made direct to this prison by the courts. Napanoch takes only the overflow from Elmira Reformatory, and since the war there hasn't been any overflow, Elmira itself has been only scantily filled. Therefore instead of having 400 and more, as we could comfortably take care of, we have less than 200—195 the books show to-day. They run in age from 16 to 30, and they are first offenders, or are supposed to be."

Boys Good Material to Work On.

"Very many of these boys are good stuff—boys that have been misled through bad company or bad bringing up but that are quite susceptible of improvement. We try to study every one carefully, and I honestly think that a tremendous amount of good to the State has been accomplished in this little prison. Take our school here, for instance. Here every day except Saturday and Sunday Prof. John Brunson conducts classes from 2:30 P. M. to 4 P. M. in all subjects up to English and natural history—from the rudiments to the beginnings of higher education. He has the assistance of selected young men who have had the advantage of an education. We get many such. That school is one of our prizes."

"Then there is the farm," said Delaney. "It covers forty-five acres, and every acre is tillable. By the labor of the inmates we raise all of our vegetables and some fruits, and it is work that is good for the boys and that is enjoyed by most of them. We have the best laundry in the prison system and our bath house of seventy-five sprays is furnished with nickelplate and marble, as you see."

"The main factory is a shop building for woodworking machinery on one floor and with a general machine shop on the second floor. Here the boys are taught several useful trades. We have a fine kitchen and a splendid mess hall. A hospital building is under construction. Our water supply comes from a mountain brook that never fails, and with the water and air of the country Napanoch is a health resort among prisons."

Any visitor would be disposed to agree with Mr. Delaney after even a casual inspection of the plant. The prison was built in 1908 and cost \$1,500,000. Henry Melville of 45 Cedar street, New York city, a member of the reformatory board, which supervises both Elmira and Napanoch, does not think it would be wise for the Legislature to act too hastily in shutting the little prison up in Ulster county.

"It is perfectly true," Mr. Melville said, "that business is bad for our prisons and jails, and that if business doesn't pick up and more men show a desire to break into the safe restraints we have provided some of the prisons will have to quit. Napanoch, next to the State Prison, is one of the best to be kept."

being half filled and for several of the county jails having quit altogether? Some say prohibition, but that's only partly true at the most. The main cause is the industrial situation.

War's Advent Checked Crime.

"Before the war there was widespread unemployment and unrestricted immigration. Crime was rampant. There were hordes of applicants for our cells. Then came the war, general employment at high wages and a shutting off of immigration. Men were busy. The bad foreign elements were kept out. There was a tremendous falling off in candidates for prison. But we seem to be entering upon another period. There is unemployment once more, and now widespread and serious it will be we don't know yet. Immigration is flowing full tide now and will keep going, even though restricted by law. There is unrest and dissatisfaction. Crime is much too prevalent in the cities, as we all know. It may be that before a year is over we are going to have use for all of our prisons again. Prohibition is not going to keep prisons empty if men can't get work and fall into the evil that idleness often induces."

"For these reasons the Reformatory Board has adopted a resolution which states:

"When late in 1920 prosperity passed its peak the crime wave began, and the institutions began to show the effect. It is the opinion of this board that provision should be made for this increase, and that just when every newspaper is devoting display headlines to the accounts of the extraordinary prevalence of crime is not a suitable time for closing one of the State reformatories and the sacrifice of an institution slowly and carefully built up during many years, and that cannot readily be replaced."

"We therefore urge that the consideration of the legislation that is contemplated in said bill be delayed at least one year, and until it can appear what effect new industrial conditions will have on reformatory commitments."

Significant Facts and Figures.

Other facts and figures show how business has fallen off at Elmira. For a long time prior to the breaking out of the world war, in August, 1914, both

the institution at Elmira and that at Napanoch were full. The average population of Elmira for the three years previous was: 1912, 1,353; 1913, 1,382; 1914, 1,333.

The population of Napanoch on September 30, 1914, was 463 in an institution with 495 cells. At no time in this period could the populations of the two institutions have been placed in the one at Elmira without "doubling up" about 800 men, a deplorable practice in prison administration. The reduction in prison population since 1914 has clearly been due to the extraordinary industrial conditions affecting all charitable and penal institutions.

A period of unusual industrial activity culminated in 1920. That year only 722 men were committed to the reformatory. Then followed hard times and the commitments jumped 45 per cent. in a single year and continued to increase for a considerable period. In 1920 1,466 new men were committed. The same thing, in the opinion of the reformatory board, is sure to happen again—is happening again.

The class of young men that go to the reformatories are the last hired and the first fired. If any one is out of employment they are, and their betters by hundreds of thousands are out of work at the present time. At the same time, the board notes, immigration, which for several years was suspended, is being resumed in immense volume and in poorer quality than formerly. There is reason to believe that there will be a large increase in commitments."

It was understood yesterday that a proposal will be put before the Legislature to close the Great Meadows Prison also and to distribute the inmates among other prisons, and that a suggestion has been made that the Soldiers' Home at Oxford be closed.

LINER GROUNDS FLOATED.

The Shipping Board steamship Texarkana, bound from Bremen to Norfolk, but ordered by wireless by her operators to proceed instead to New York, ran aground early yesterday at Jones Inlet, on the Long Island coast, between Long Beach and Fire Island. She was lessened for aid and the coast guard cutter Gresham responded. According to later word, however, the ship was floated at high tide in the afternoon and started slowly for port.

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FARM AND GARDEN.

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Two smart new models in women's brown or black kidskin Oxfords; made with the desirable "hygienic" shank that gives such excellent support to the arch of the foot. Welted soles and Cuban heels. Sizes 2½ to 8 in widths from AA to D.

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Silk frocks in combinations oforgette Crepe and Charmeuse attractively beaded, and suitable for afternoon and semi-formal wear. Also Satin Frocks in a more dignified model with smartly paneled skirt and semi-tailored bodice.

Navy blue, black, brown, tan, pewter or pearl gray. Sizes 34 to 46.

**A. & S. Corsets**  
\$2.69

A Special Purchase of 1,000 fine corsets at far lower than the same model ordinarily sells for in our regular stocks.

Pink silk brocaded coutil Corsets, boned with black boning. Low bust model with long hip line, with elastic section at side.

**All-Wool Plaids**  
\$1.79 Yard

An offering of almost unprecedented value because we have been selling these very plaids in regular stock up to now for \$3.49 a yard. They are imported, and there are 30 different and distinct color combinations. 47 inches wide.

**Madras Curtains**  
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Soft, creamy-tinted madras curtains, with dainty bordered patterns that are practical for any room. All are the regulation width and 2½ yards long, in a good selection of designs.

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95c Pair

2 clasp style of imported glace in black, white, tan, brown and grey. Self backs and overseam sewn.

**Porcelain Luncheon Sets**  
\$4.85

32-piece luncheon sets of American Porcelain, decorated with large flying bluebirds design and neat blue line.

6 lunch plates, 6 bread and butter plates, 6 dessert dishes, 6 tea cups and saucers, 1 platter and 1 uncovered vegetable dish, in open stock if desired.

**Boys' Blouses**  
69c Each

3,200 of the finest Blouses.

Extra well made of fast color percales in attractive stripes on white grounds. Full cut sizes with attached collars. Sizes 8 to 16 years.

**Women's Nightgowns**  
\$1.26

Fashioned of White or Flesh Batiste these Nightgowns are found in sleeveless or short-sleeved models. Straightline and semi-Empire styles. They are made with tailored or hemstitched edges. Hand embroidery at neck and front.

**Women's Blouses**  
\$3.98 and \$5.98

Originally \$7.48 to \$14.95. Fashioned of the finest French Batistes are these dainty Blouses "from Paris."

Hand drawn-work and hemstitching are featured—sometimes combined with delicate laces artistically applied. All white, but some have effective touches of colors. Sizes 36 to 46.

**Misses' Suits**  
\$39.95

Men's wear checked worsted Suits in black and white combinations, and smart Tricotines in navy blue, sand, pewter gray, olive drab and tan are cleverly tailored in severe modes.

All these suits are strictly man-tailored with close-fitting shoulders and sleeves, patch or cloth pockets, etc.

**Crepe de Chine**  
\$1.49 Yard

6,000 yards lovely all-silk crepe de chine at one of the lowest prices quoted to date! A wonderful range of colors, white and delicate shades for lingerie, street and evening shades, and the new vivid tints so much in vogue. 39 inches wide.

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Reduced from \$8.75. 15x20 inches, with mirror.

Porcelain top Wash tub Covers, \$3.19 ea.

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\$1.79

Hundreds of different styles in fancy and plain Milans, lisere, Tagal, visca, pineapple, porcupine, hair braids, etc., plain or combined with silks.

Some are trimmed, some are semi-trimmed and others are the tailored types.

**Little Girls' Dresses**  
89c

Pink and white, or blue and white checked Gingham dresses in cunning little straight-line model, attractively smocked at the yoke line. This little style buttons down the front with tiny pearl buttons. Sizes 2 to 6 years.

**Women's Suits**  
\$47.50

TWILL CORD and TRICOTINE Suits in new models for the Spring season are found in four styles at this price, in navy blue, black, gravel, tan or pewter gray.

One Twill Cord model is trimmed with braid. The Tricotine Suits are tailored in straightline, belted models. Jackets lined with peau de cygne.

Sizes 34 to 44. A. & S.—Second floor, Central.

**Women's Silk Hose**  
\$1.39 Pair

"Irregulars of better grades," which means that in this lot you can find a pair of stockings that you would ordinarily pay \$2.00 or \$3.00 or \$4.00 for, with some slight, and often imperceptible, imperfections. Some all silk, some with lisle soles and garter tops, in black and cordovan.

**3-Pc. Bedroom Suites**  
\$195.00

Tudor design Bedstead, Dresser and Chiffonier in mahogany or walnut, with burl walnut panels and molded edges. 4 pcs., with Vanity Table, \$270.00. 5 pcs., with Twin Bedsteads, \$325.00.

**Men's Shirts**  
\$1.39

50 dozen negligee shirts, faultlessly made of heavy woven madras, as well as printed madras in negligee styles, with soft turn-back cuffs. A good selection of patterns in sizes 14 to 17.

**Women's Bags**  
\$2.34

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**Men's Suits**  
\$34.75

A "supremacy" group of 140 suits in a fine array of handsome woollens, comprising unfinished and finished worsteds and cassimeres of the highest type.

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